DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 116 593 HE 007 122

TITLE Nursing Training Act of 1975. Fact Sheets.
INSTITUTION Health Resources Administration (DHEW/PHS), Bethesda, Md. Div. of Nursing.
PUB DATE Sep 75
NOTE 12p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.76 HC-$1.58 Plus Postage
DESCRIPTORS *Federal Legislation; *Financial Support; *Higher Education; *Nursing; Professional Continuing Education; *Professional Education
IDENTIFIERS *Nursing Training Act 1975

ABSTRACT

The Nursing training Act of 1975 revises and extends the nursing training authorities provided under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act for a three-year period, thus providing aid to nursing training through September 30, 1978. It provides two new, separate authorities for the support of Advanced Nursing Training and Nursing Practitioner programs. Institutional aid is continued through Construction Assistance, Capitation Grants, and Financial Distress authorities. Start-Up Grants for nursing training programs and grants and contracts for Full Utilitization of Educational Talent for Nursing are repealed. Support for the latter purpose is continued, but it is now consolidated with the other purposes under Special Project Assistance. Continuation of student support is again authorized through the Nursing Student Loan and Scholarship programs and the Professional Nursing Traineeship program. Programs under this legislation are administered by the Division of Nursing, except for the Student Loans and Scholarships which are administered by the Office of Student Assistance, Bureau of Health Manpower. This document reviews the highlights of these new and amended provisions. (Author/KE)

****
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
****

ED116593

Nurse Training Act of 1975

FACT SHEETS

Public Law 94-63, amending the Public Health Service Act and related health laws, was enacted on July 29, 1975. Title IX of this legislation constitutes the Nurse Training Act of 1975. After continuing existing provisions through FY 1975, the new law revises and extends the nurse training authorities provided under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act for a 3-year period starting July 1, 1975. Inasmuch as the beginning date of the Federal fiscal year is to be changed from July 1 to October 1 in the coming year, the new legislation provides aid to nursing through September 30, 1978.

The Nurse Training Act of 1975 provides two new, separate authorities for the support of Advanced Nurse Training and Nurse Practitioner programs. Institutional aid is continued through Construction Assistance, Capitation Grants, Financial Distress Grants, and Special Project Grants and Contracts. Two former authorities, namely Start-Up Grants for nurse training programs and grants and contracts for Full Utilization of Educational Talent for Nursing, are repealed. Support for the latter purpose is continued, but it is now consolidated with the other purposes under Special Project Assistance. Continuation of student support is again authorized through the Nursing Student Loan and Scholarship programs and the Professional Nurse Traineeship program. Programs under this legislation are administered by the Division of Nursing, except for Student Loans and Scholarships which are administered by the Office of Student Assistance, Bureau of Health Manpower.

The attached fact sheets present the highlights of the new and amended provisions. Schools of nursing will automatically be advised concerning application procedures for the Student Assistance, Capitation, and Financial Distress programs. Nursing schools and institutions interested in other grant programs should address inquiries for more detailed program guides and consultation to:

Director, Division of Nursing
Bureau of Health Manpower
Health Resources Administration
Federal Building, Room 516
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

HE 007122

September 1975

CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE

The title of this provision has been changed from Construction Grants to Construction Assistance. Authorization is continued for matching grants to assist in the construction, expansion, replacement, or renovation of teaching facilities, with the addition that special consideration be given to the effectiveness of the proposed facilities to expand the capacity of the school to provide graduate training.

The maximum Federal share of construction costs is 75 percent for new schools or for schools providing a major expansion of teaching capacity. For other construction projects, the maximum Federal share is 67 percent.

The program of guarantees and interest subsidies on construction loans from non-Federal lenders to nonprofit private schools of nursing is continued. Authority is added for guarantees of loans made by the Federal Financing Bank. Authority is also amended to pay the full amount of any losses in the case of loan defaults.

Appropriation Authorizations

Fiscal Year	Grants	Interest Subsidies
FY 1976	$20 million	$1 million
FY 1977	20 "	1 "
FY 1978	20 "	1 "

CAPITATION GRANTS

This provision authorizes annual Capitation Grants to schools of nursing, with important changes in the amounts for each type of nursing education program and in the requirements for participation.

The revised formula provides that collegiate schools of nursing will receive $400 for each undergraduate full-time student enrolled in the last two years of the school. Associate degree programs will receive $275 for each full-time student in the second year, and $275 for half of the full-time students enrolled in the first year of the school. Diploma programs will receive $250 for each full-time student enrolled.

Without exception, to receive a grant, nursing schools are required to give assurances as follows: 1) To maintain the first-year enrollment of full-time students in the year following the grant at a level no less than that of the preceding school year; and 2) to maintain the level of non-Federal expenditures for the operation of the nursing program during the grant year at least as great as the average for the three preceding years.

In addition, all participating schools are required to give assurance either that they will increase first-year enrollment of full-time students, or that they will carry out at least two specified training activities.

Schools that elect to increase first-year enrollment are expected during the year following the grant to show an increase over enrollment figures for the 1974-75 school year. A 10 percent increase is required if the 1974-75 full-time enrollment had been 100 or fewer; a 5 percent increase, or 10 students--whichever is greater--if the 1974-75 enrollment had been more than 100.

Schools that elect to engage in specified training activities as a condition of receiving a Capitation Grant are expected in the year following the grant to carry out activities according to a plan approved by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, in at least two of the following four categories:

1. In the case of collegiate schools, a program for the training of nurse practitioners (as defined under "Nurse Practitioner Programs" in the legislation);

2. Clinical training for students in community health centers, long-term care facilities, and ambulatory care facilities geographically remote from the school location;

3. Continuing education for nurses to meet needs identified by an appropriate body;

4. Recruitment and retention of students from disadvantaged backgrounds (as determined in accordance with criteria prescribed by the Secretary), with at least 10 percent of each year's entering class or 10 students--whichever is greater--to comprise such students.

The provision relating to "enrollment bonus students" is repealed. However, funds are authorized to continue payments for previously qualified enrollment bonus students, so designated prior to July 1, 1975, who are still enrolled full time in the program.

Appropriation Authorizations

FY 1976	$50 million
FY 1977	55 "
FY 1978	55 "

FINANCIAL DISTRESS GRANTS

Authority is extended for Financial Distress Grants to help public or nonprofit private schools of nursing that are in serious financial straits to meet the costs of maintaining quality in nursing education, or that have special need for financial assistance to meet accreditation requirements. Conditions for participation in this provision include the applicant's willingness to disclose financial information, conduct a cost analysis study, and carry out appropriate financial reforms.

In addition, the school must provide assurances that it will expend, in carrying out its function as a school during the fiscal year for which the grant is sought, an amount of funds (other than funds for construction) from non-Federal sources at least as great as the average amount expended in the three preceding years. The Secretary may waive this requirement if he determines its application would be inconsistent with the purpose of the financial distress grant.

Appropriation Authorizations

FY 1976	$5 million
FY 1977	5 "
FY 1978	5 "

SPECIAL PROJECT ASSISTANCE

Special Project Grants and Contracts

Authority is extended to award Special Project Grants to public and nonprofit private schools of nursing and other entities, and to enter into contracts with any public or private entity, for special projects to carry out one or more purposes which have been restated and extended to include new training opportunities.

The purposes of Special Projects are to:

1. Assist in mergers between hospital training programs or between hospital training programs and academic institutions, or other cooperative arrangements among hospitals and academic institutions, leading to the establishment of nurse training programs;

2. Plan, develop, or establish new nurse training programs or programs of research in nursing education, or significantly improve curricula of schools of nursing (including curriculums of pediatric nursing and geriatric nursing) or modify existing programs of nursing education;

3. Increase nursing education opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, as determined in accordance with criteria prescribed by the Secretary, by a) identifying, recruiting, and selecting such individuals, b) facilitating the entry of such individuals into schools of nursing, c) providing counseling or other services designed to assist such individuals to complete successfully their nursing education, d) providing, for a period prior to the entry of such individuals into the regular course of education at a school of nursing, preliminary education designed to assist them to complete successfully such regular course of education, e) paying such stipends (including allowances for travel and dependents) as the Secretary may determine for such individuals for any period of nursing education, and f) publicizing, especially to licensed vocational or practical nurses, existing sources of financial aid available to persons enrolled in schools of nursing or who are undertaking training necessary to qualify them to enroll in such schools;

4. Provide continuing education for nurses;

5. Provide appropriate retraining opportunities for nurses who (after periods of professional inactivity) desire again actively to engage in the nursing profession;

6. Help to increase the supply or improve the distribution by geographic area or by specialty group of adequately trained nursing personnel (including nursing personnel who are bilingual) needed to meet the health needs of the Nation, including the need to increase the availability of personal health services and the need to promote preventive health care;

7. Provide training and education to upgrade the skills of licensed vocational or practical nurses, nursing assistants, and other paraprofessional nursing personnel; or

8. Assist in meeting the costs of developing short-term (not to exceed 6 months) in-service training programs for nurses aides and orderlies for nursing homes, which programs emphasize the special problems of geriatric patients and include training for monitoring the well-being and feeding and cleaning of the patients in nursing homes, emergency procedures, drug properties and interactions, and fire safety techniques.

Appropriation Authorizations

FY 1976	$15 million
FY 1977	15 "
FY 1978	15 "

Advanced Nurse Training Programs

A new authority is provided to award grants to and enter into contracts with public and nonprofit private collegiate schools of nursing to plan, develop, and operate, or significantly expand, or maintain existing programs for the advanced training of professional nurses to teach, to serve in administrative or supervisory capacities, or to serve in other nursing specialties, determined by the Secretary to require advanced training.

Appropriation Authorizations

FY 1976	$15 million
FY 1977	20 "
FY 1978	25 "

Nurse Practitioner Programs

A new authority is provided to award grants to and enter into contracts with schools of nursing, medicine, and public health, as well as hospitals and other public or nonprofit private entities to plan, develop, and operate, or significantly expand, or maintain existing programs for the training of nurse practitioners. Emphasis is placed on training to meet the particular problems of geriatric and nursing home patients, as well as training to provide primary health care in homes, ambulatory facilities, long-term care facilities, and other health care institutions.

The training programs to be supported under this provision must meet guidelines prescribed by the Secretary after consultation with appropriate educational and professional nursing and medical organizations. Programs must extend for at least one academic year and combine classroom instruction with supervised clinical practice. An enrollment of not fewer than eight students per class is required.

Appropriation Authorizations

FY 1976	$15 million
FY 1977	20 "
FY 1978	25 "

STUDENT ASSISTANCE

Three provisions of the Nurse Training Act of 1975 authorize the extension of assistance to nursing students: Professional Nurse Traineeships, Nursing Student Loans, and Nursing Student Scholarships.

Professional Nurse Traineeships

Traineeship support for the advanced training of registered nurses is extended and is now authorized for the preparation of nurse practitioners, as well as nurse teachers, administrators, supervisors, and nurse specialists. In the award of traineeship grants, special consideration will be given to programs which conform to the guidelines prescribed by the Secretary for Nurse Practitioner Programs.

Appropriation Authorizations

FY 1976	$15 million
FY 1977	20 "
FY 1978	25 "

Student Loans

The program of low-cost loans for full- and half-time nursing students is continued with a maximum loan ceiling of $2,500 per student per year, or an aggregate of $10,000. Loans are repayable over a 10-year period following completion of training. The loan repayment section is modified to permit a borrower to defer repayment of a nursing student loan pending completion of study to prepare as a nurse anesthetist in addition to previously designated deferment for advanced professional training in nursing and for service in the Armed Forces or the Peace Corps.

The provision for cancellation of up to 85 percent of a Nursing Student Loan through employment as a professional nurse under specified circumstances is continued. Also continued are two provisions for Federal repayment of educational loans for nurse training costs: 1) up to 85 percent of all outstanding loans plus interest, to graduates who enter into an agreement with the Secretary to practice as a nurse for at least 2 years in a shortage area (as defined by the Secretary); and 2) all or part of any loans to exceptionally needy low-income students who fail to complete their studies and cannot reasonably be expected to resume nursing studies within 2 years.

Authorization for the Revolving Student Loan Fund is repealed, except to allow for honoring of existing obligations.

Appropriation Authorizations

FY 1976	$25 million
FY 1977	30 "
FY 1978	35 "

Scholarships

The nursing scholarship program is extended for 3 years without change. The Act authorizes a maximum scholarship of $2,000 per year for exceptionally needy students. No specific appropriations are authorized since the amount of assistance is determined by statutory formula based on enrollment.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Nurse Training Act of 1975 includes a section requiring the Secretary to collect, analyze, and report to the Congress not later than February 1, 1977, and annually thereafter, on the supply, distribution, and requirements for nursing personnel, and other statistical data relating to employment, compensation, specialty preparation, and foreign nurse graduates. He is also to recommend legislation to provide an equitable supply and distribution of nurses throughout the country.

Unchanged is the section providing for the establishment of the National Advisory Council on Nurse Training to advise the Secretary with respect to policy and to review applications for certain programs. The section on definitions (including those for schools of nursing and accreditation) also remains unchanged.

The new law specifies that the authority to review an application for a grant or contract to be presented to the National Advisory Council on Nurse Training, or to award such a grant or contract, may not be delegated to the regional offices of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Technical amendments restructure Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, reordering and renumbering some of the sections.